

# TOWN OF WILTON

## SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: October 21, 2013

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Town Office

Present: Chairman Daniel E. Donovan, III, Selectmen William F. Condra and Richard E. Swanson, and Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Donovan. He announced a Public Hearing to accept a donation to fund the purchase of tasers for the Police Department. Chairman Donovan told how Chief Hautanen came to the Board to propose acquiring tasers using money from the Drug Forfeiture account. The Selectmen approved acquisition and then a donor came forward with a sum of \$15,000 for the purchase of tasers. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. Hearing no public comment Chairman Donovan made the following motion:

Motion: A motion was made to accept the fifteen thousand dollar anonymous donation for the purchase of tasers for use by the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Selectman Condra followed by a unanimous vote.

At 6:33 P.M. Chairman Donovan asked for a nonpublic session to discuss the protocol for the tasers. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative.

The meeting was called to order 6:46 P.M.

Lynne Draper and Alan Preston attended the meeting to discuss the boundary adjustment that the Conservation Commission is proposing for four properties on Maple Street. Lynne talked about how the

proposal will work. She stated that the Conservation Commission is only an advisory Board and they do not feel they have the authority to send the letter to the land owners. Chairman Donovan gave the history of these properties and explained that this proposal would have to pass at Town Meeting and be reviewed by Town Counsel saying that it is possible. The costs for further surveys, recording fees, and the fees for the initial survey would be the responsibility of the recipients of this boundary adjustment. Alan will ask for a rough estimate from Dawn for the final survey costs. Then the Selectmen will follow up with formal offer to the abutters.

Next was Ian McSweeney of the Russell Foundation to discuss Les Tallarico's property. He spoke about some of the previous projects in Town, including the Gage Road easement. Les Tallarico is going to donate an easement on almost his entire property for agriculture, conservation, and recreation. There is approximately 105 acres. Mr. Tallarico is donating the easement and the Russell Foundation is helping with some expenses. The Society for the Protection of NH Forests will hold the easement. Selectman Swanson asked Ian what was needed from the Town. Ian noted that this is a private donation so they could proceed without the Town's help however, the Conservation Commission has some interest in this property and if they provide money then the Town will have an interest in the easement. Lynne Draper spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission stating that it has always been Les' desire to give land to the Town. Three sides of this property abut other conservation land so this piece would tie together a lot of other land. The Conservation Commission is in favor of it and at their last meeting voted to give ten thousand dollars for the project.

Next, Ian talked about the Frye land. Gary, Gail and Austin Frye have agreed to conserve 105 acres on the opposite side of Isaac Frye from their homestead down to the Souhegan River and it abuts High Mowing School. The easement is similar to the Gage Road Easement,

where half the funds are covered by Federal Funds. Mr. McSweeney is working to secure the rest. The Corridor Route 13 snowmobile trail will continue. They are looking at this summer for completion on the project. There was further discussion on this issue including the loss in tax revenue as High Mowing will be the future owner of this parcel.

Kathy Boss of High Mowing School stated that they want to see more recreational area for use by the Town by putting in a trail system that will open up the view for people to enjoy and create a contiguous property for the whole community.

Selectman Swanson voiced his support for the project. Selectman Condra asked how much land control is given away because of Federal Funds. Ian explained a conservation easement, saying that the person who obtains the easement doesn't obtain rights; they monitor the land to ensure that the easements are being met. The Conservation Commission is interested but it is an ongoing project. If they provide any money the Town will hold an easement in the property.

Next on the agenda was Bill Letsky from Virtual Towns and Schools to give a demonstration about his company's website services. The Town will be looking to change over the Town website next year. Chairman Donovan spoke of the October snowstorm two years ago where phone service and cell phone service was lost for a period of time. Anyone who had a source for internet connection could have connected to the Town website for emergency updates if we had been using Virtual Towns and Schools Website. Mr. Letsky will email a proposal to be presented to the Budget Committee.

The Board talked about several other issues including a proposal by John Shepardson to change a permit requirement which the Selectmen were fine with after some discussion. They also talked about the Goinsalvos issue which Steve Elliott will keep an eye on during the winter. Another issue involving a Maple Street business that has a light

which is bothering a neighbor was discussed; more time is needed to look into it.

This week's manifests were signed.

The meeting minutes were signed.

Payroll for period ending 10/19/13 was approved.

The 2013 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate was signed.

Two (2) Timber Tax Warrants were approved.

One (1) Tax Abatement was signed.

The CEI Groundwater Testing Contract was signed.

The Board talked in length about conservation land.

The Selectmen talked about the doors in the Courtroom. They agreed to replace them instead of repairing them.

Selectman Swanson discussed the Goss Park appropriation. The Goss Park Board is preparing their 2014 budget and is waiting for a response from Selectman Byam of Lyndeborough. The Selectmen discussed the taxation issue of Goss Park and agreed to abate the taxes this year but future tax bills would have to be addressed by future Goss Park Boards.

It was also mentioned that the Masonic Temple is not tax exempt. The history of the school portion being abated was discussed. Selectman Condra asked for an abatement of the school portion of the tax bill from this Select Board. Chairman Donovan is informing Mason member Bill Condra that this will come up; it is not tax exempt. A non-profit is not in-and-of itself tax exempt.

Selectman Swanson told the Board about the quote from Froling for a pellet burner for \$98,000 with a 10 year payback. He will proceed to the Energy Committee for further discussion. Chairman Donovan

mentioned items in the upcoming budget which will have substantial operating costs; the Storm Water Management Plan; the operating costs for the new Fire Station; and an \$800,000 request for a new roof for the Library.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M. by Chairman Donovan, seconded by Selectman Condra; followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

Pamela L. Atwood,  
Recording Secretary